

A NEW METHOD FOR THE OBSERVATION OF THE SPIDER GENITALIA

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In many cases, the genitalia are dark-coloured, and just by boiling the genitalia in 10% NaOH solution, it is difficult to see their internal structure. If we wish to see the ducts, spermathecae and their mutual relations, we must take off the pigment by some other method without spoiling their structure. A new method in this connection has been tested many times by the authors and would be found well adapted for this purpose, if employed. (See the sketches of the genitalia in plate VII of "Cave Spiders of Japan II, *Cybaeus*, *Dolichocybaeus* and *Heterocybaeus* (Cybaeinae)" 1968.)

The authors' method is as follows.

1	2		3	4	
Cut off the area of the genitalia	Boil in 10% KOH solution about 2-4 minutes		water	Boil in 3% H ₂ O ₂ about 5-15 minutes	
5	6	7	8	9	10
water	5% alcohol	10% alcohol	20% alcohol	35% alcohol	50% alcohol
11	12	13	14	15	
75% alcohol	90% alcohol	absolute alcohol	xylen-alcohol	xylen	

If the structure is soft or delicate, leave out the stage of boiling in 10% KOH. This method can be applied to various uses, especially for the observations of the maxilla, the labium, the arrangement of the teeth of the chelicera and the spines of the leg.